



Brand-owners of pharmaceuticals and natural health products have more than 15 years of experience providing and paying for a medicine return program in British Columbia and are operating similar programs in other countries around the world, including Italy, Spain, and France.

The B.C. Recycling Regulation requires all brand-owners of pharmaceutical products to be responsible for the management of their products, including collection of left-over products.

2011 B.C. Medications Return Program Results:		
Amount of unwanted medicines collected:	151,896 pounds	Collected from BC's population of 4.57 million in 2011.
Voluntary pharmacy participation rate:	95%	1,033 community pharmacies participate.
Annual total cost of program to producers:	\$516,800 US (\$530,000 Canadian)	Most drug producers paid less than \$2,000 per year, with individual costs ranging from \$200 to \$15,000. Ten companies paid more than \$20,000.

How BC's medicine return program works:

- The Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association (PCPSA) provides the medications return program. PCPSA is a not-for-profit industry sponsored association founded by Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) and Consumer Health Products Canada.
- Consumers return their unwanted medications to any participating pharmacy throughout the province. Prescription drugs (brand name and generic), over-the-counter medications and natural health products; vitamins, and supplements are accepted.
- There are no user fees directed to the consumer/patient at time of purchase or at the point of collection.
- Medicines returned from each pharmacy are tracked by weight, pickup date, and location, and stored in a secure location until a shipment is accumulated for safe destruction through a licensed incineration facility.
- Program costs - such as management, communications, collection, transportation, storage, disposal, and promotional activities - are covered by brand-owners through annual payments to the PCPSA. Each medicine producer's contribution is based on number of prescriptions dispensed (brand-name and generic) and/or percentage of sales of affected self-care health products. Rates are set yearly by the Board of Directors in relation to projected costs. *See list of participating producers on reverse.*

According to Ginette Vanasse, Executive Director of the Post-Consumer Product Stewardship Association, the costs of medicines have not increased in British Columbia as a result of their medicine return program. Rather the relatively small costs are internalized and have become a part of doing business.

Sources: Post-Consumer Residual Stewardship Program - **Pharmaceutical Annual Report – January to December 2011**
Available online July 2011; Personal communication with Ginette Vanasse

Drug Producers Providing B.C.'s Medications Return Program

Brand-owners for pharmaceuticals and self-care health products have more than 15 years experience in providing and paying for a medication return program serving British Columbia. The following drug companies participated in the program in 2011. Many of these companies also sell medications in Washington State.

Abbott Laboratories Limited
Abraxis BioScience Inc
Advantage Sales and Marketing
Canada
Afxa Life Sciences Inc
Alcon Canada Inc
Amgen Canada Inc
Amway Canada Corporation
Apotex Inc
Astellas Pharma Canada Inc
AstraZeneca Canada Inc
Axcan Pharma Inc
Bayer HealthCare, Consumer
Care
Bioforce Canada Inc
Biogen Idec Canada Inc
Biovail Pharmaceuticals
Canada
Boehringer Ingelheim Canada
Ltd
Boiron Canada Inc
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Pharmaceutical Group
Canada Safeway Ltd
Chattem (Canada) Inc
Church & Dwight Canada
Cobalt Pharmaceuticals Inc
Combe Incorporated
Costco
Cytex Pharmaceutical Inc
Eli Lilly Canada Inc
EMD-Serono Canada Inc
Enzymatic Therapy
Ferring Inc
Gaia Garden Herbals Inc
Galderma Canada
General Nutrition Centres
Canada
GlaxoSmithKline Consumer
Healthcare Inc.
GlaxoSmithKline Inc
Graceway Pharmaceuticals
Helix BioPharma Corp

Herbalife of Canada
Hospira Healthcare Corporation
HPI Health Products/Lakota
Hudson's Bay Company
Indigene Pharma Inc
Institut Rosell-Lallemand
Jamieson Laboratories
Janssen Inc
Katz Group Canada Ltd
King Pharmaceuticals
Kripps Pharmacy
Laboratoires Riva
Leo Pharma Inc
Loblaw Companies Ltd
London Drugs Limited
Lundbeck Canada Inc
McNeil Consumer Healthcare,
Division of Johnson & Johnson
Inc
Mead Johnson Nutrition
(Canada) Co
Merck Canada Inc
Mylan Canada
Natural Factors Nutritional
Products Ltd
Nature's Sunshine Products
Northwest Natural Products
Novartis Consumer Health
Canada Inc
Novartis Pharma Canada Inc
Novo Nordisk
Nu-Pharm Inc
Nycomed Canada Inc
Odan Laboratories Ltd
Omega Alpha Pharmaceuticals
Omega Laboratories Ltd
Organika Health Products Inc
Overwaitea Food Group Ltd
Partnership
Paladin Labs Inc
Peoples Drug Mart (B.C.) Ltd
Pfizer Canada Inc

Pfizer Consumer Healthcare,
Division of Pfizer Canada Inc
Pharmasave Drugs (National)
Ltd
Pharmascience Inc
Platinum Naturals
Procter & Gamble Inc
ProMedics Nutraceutical Ltd
Purdue Pharma
Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals
Canada Inc
Ratiopharm
Roche Limited
Sandoz Canada
Sanofi-Aventis
Schering-Plough Canada Inc
Seaford Pharmaceuticals Inc
Sepracor Pharmaceuticals Inc
Servier Canada Inc
Shaklee Canada Inc
Shire Canada Inc
Shoppers Drug Mart,
Pharmaprix
SISU Inc
Solvay Pharma Inc
Stiefel Canada Inc., a GSK
Company
Swiss Herbal Remedies Ltd
Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc
Teva Canada / Novopharm
Tianshi Health Products
Trophic Canada
UniPHARM Wholesale Drugs
USANA Canada Co
Valeant Canada Limited
Vita Health Products Inc
Wal-Mart Pharmacy
Warner Chilcott Canada Co
WellSpring Pharmaceutical
Canada Corp
Westcoast Naturals
WN Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Wyeth Canada

For additional information, see the web site of the Post Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association, at http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/home_en.php . A 29-page plan describing the BC product stewardship program is online at <http://www.medicationsreturn.ca/stewardship-plan.pdf> .